



Habitat is where it's at! Above photo: Little Mountain by Andy Roosa, WGFD

October 2016



We hope you enjoy reading about the adventures of the **Green River Region personnel** as they work to *Conserve Wildlife and Serve People!*



#### Special dates and points of interest:

- PREFERENCE POINT ONLY APPLICATION PERIOD JULY 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31
- REMEMBER: YOU CAN BUY ALL YOUR HUNTING LICENSES, REQUIRED STAMPS AND MANY MORE PRODUCTS AT THE WGFD WEBSITE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN COMPUTER!
- DON'T HAVE YOUR HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE? CHECK OUT COURSE LISTINGS AT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://WGFD.WYO.GOV](http://WGFD.WYO.GOV)
- BLACK BEAR HUNT AREA 9 CLOSED ON OCTOBER 5, 2016. ALL BLACK BEAR AND MOUNTAIN LION HUNTERS ARE REQUIRED TO CALL THE BEAR/LION MORTALITY QUOTA HOTLINE AT 1-800-264-1280.
- HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP) PERMITS ARE FREE BUT THEY ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE WGFD WEBSITE.

**Hunting seasons are in full swing in the Green River Region!** We welcome a new member to the GR family and her name is **Zi Zi**. Zi Zi is a Vizsla and full of energy! She belongs to Green River Wildlife Coordinator Mark Zornes and provides lots of humor at game check stations. *(photo above left)* Look like Zi Zi had some fun with some "mountain money" a.k.a. toilet paper, but Happy the border collie did not assist. *(photo above right)*

**Wyoming hunter Levi Walker** shows off his nice bighorn sheep harvested in Hunt Area 5. All successful bighorn sheep hunters are required to have their sheep plugged so that we may document the legal harvest of the bighorn sheep. Bighorn sheep hunters can have their sheep plugged at any regional office of the Game and Fish. *(photo right)*





*~Snake wild fire adds excitement for hunters~ John Walrath Green River Peer Award*



*Snake wildfire burning  
September 12, 2016.  
Photo courtesy of the  
US Forest Service.*

*Baggs Game Warden Kim Olson and Baggs Wildlife Biologist Tony Mong* had to field many phone calls from panicked campers and hunters in the area asking if they need to move their camp or not due to the Snake wildfire.

*"While we couldn't tell folks exactly* where to camp, but we were able to provide more details about the forest lands affected by the temporary closure in place by the US Forest Service," Olson said. "The fire affected area was on the 851 Road, south of the Battle Creek Bridge. The closure also applied to Fletcher Peak, Roaring Fork, West Branch, North Fork and runs towards the southwest side of the Huston Park Wilderness Area all the way to the CO/WY state line as far east as Rose Creek. This closure was finally lifted at 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30."

*The Snake Fire*, which began on September 11, flared up two miles north of the Wyoming and Colorado state line and approximately five miles southeast of Battle Creek Campground, and quickly spread due to extreme fire conditions and the presence of many beetle-killed trees.

*Both Olson and Mong alerted hunters* to Baggs Elk Hunt Area 21 and Baggs mule deer hunt area 82 that they might have to scout around for places to hunt and camp that are not within the forest closure. "The wildfire is burned in an area with heavy beetle-killed timber," Mong said. *"But, this wildfire is not a completely bad thing.* One bright side to this fire is the habitat will be much-improved and both wildlife and hunters will benefit from the fire a few years down the road."

The cause of the Snake Fire is under investigation by USFS Law Enforcement. Anyone with potentially useful information from this past weekend in the area just east of Forest Road 851.1F should contact USFS Officer Hannah Nadeau, 307-343-2335.



*"From a supervisor's perspective,* John is a pleasure to work with; he takes his responsibilities seriously and rarely needs direct supervision," Green River Fisheries Supervisor Robb Keith said. "He gets his job done efficiently, freeing up my time to work on other responsibilities. John takes time to care for and maintain the Department's equipment. This is not only good for the Department, it is also good for the people we work for. If the office recyclables need to be taken to the recycling center, John notices and takes care of it. John is a good hand and worthy of the 2016 Green River Peer Recognition Award." *Photo bottom left: Green River Fisheries Biologist John Walrath (left) receives the Peer Recognition Award from Robb Keith (right)*



Cokeville Game Warden Neil Hymas snapped this photo of Michael Cook of Cokeville on opening day of deer season with his first mule deer harvest. Michael harvested this buck east of Cokeville. (photo top, left)

"I also snapped a photo of a nasal bot recovered from the pharynx of a mule deer buck that was harvested near Cokeville," Hymas said.

(photo center, left) "The hunter noticed several live bots in the throat cavity of the buck when the head of the deer was removed from the carcass. Nasal bots in mule deer are large fly larvae from one of at least five species of flies in the genus *Cephenemyia*. Female nasal bot flies deposit larvae into or near the external nares of the host deer, where they overwinter in the deer's nasal passages and throat pockets, and are then expelled to complete their life cycle in the soil."

"Although questions often arise from hunters that notice them, nasal bots do not significantly affect the health of the cervids (members of the deer family), even when present in large numbers. The larvae do not negatively affect the meat from animals harvested." (Sounds like something from a scary Halloween movie! :)

Wes Gordon, Southwest Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator, and Evanston AIS Crew Leader Jessica Murray complete plankton tow samples looking for the presence of zebra or quagga mussels in Flaming Gorge Reservoir (photos: left center and left bottom). AIS technicians wrapped up another very busy watercraft season on southwest waters.

Fisheries spawning specialists from Pinedale are busy collecting kokanee salmon eggs from Sheep Creek as it flows into Flaming Gorge Reservoir. These kokanee eggs are a very important source for many Wyoming waters. WGFD Pinedale Spawning Coordinator Chris Holmes "squeezes" the eggs from a female kokanee salmon and extracts the milt from the male kokanee salmon (photo below, center) and the eggs are then cleaned and placed in a cooler for transportation to area hatcheries. (photos below and right) Eggs collected during this operation will be taken to the Auburn Fish Hatchery isolation unit where they will be hatched and reared until they clear disease certification. Once certified disease-free the kokanee will be reared to approximately three inches.





~Little Mountain conservation tour~ *Habitat Quality Index surveys south of Rawlins~*



WGFD Cheyenne HQ and Green River Region wildlife and habitat biologists participated in a tour of Little Mountain with personnel from Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge, Muley Fanatics Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Dept. of Environmental Quality, Sweetwater County Planning Office and other concerned sportsmen and women. The group toured Little Mountain to view and discuss habitat improvement projects ongoing to protect and enhance wildlife habitat in the "gem of southwest Wyoming". The group looked at fencing projects and water tubes that retain moisture and help aspen and other trees grow faster and receive added protection from herbivores. *(photos left, top three)*

Aquatic Habitat Biologist Kevin Spence, WLCI Coordinator Jim Wasseen, GR Fisheries Biologist Troy Laughlin and I&E Specialist Lucy Wold surveyed five trout Habitat Quality Index (HQI) trend transects during September along Littlefield, Little Muddy, and Muddy creeks on the Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). "Data from these surveys are used to evaluate the condition trends of key stream habitat components for adult trout," Spence said. "Stream habitat attributes measured and sampled included: widths and depths; substrate composition; percentage of pool, glide, riffle and run features; velocity and discharge; water temperature; composition of streambank vegetation; and dimensions of trout cover in the form of pools, undercut banks, over hanging vegetation, and woody debris. These trend data assist in evaluating the effectiveness of livestock grazing management strategies applied in riparian areas on the Grizzly WHMA, and to ensure quality aquatic habitat conditions are achieved and maintained." *(photos bottom)*





~ Chronic Wasting Disease sampling~ 2016 Game check station action



*Kemmerer hunter Zac Malone with his first deer harvested on a Youth Deer License. (left) Sadie St Clair pulls lymph nodes in the background.*



*Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal neurological disease of deer, elk, and moose has been documented in hunt areas across Wyoming, including southwest Wyoming. This fall, wildlife managers with the Green River Region of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will, again, be collecting CWD samples. (WGFD Sadie St Clair, photo top, left)*

*"Game and Fish personnel collect and analyze more than 1,700 CWD samples annually throughout the state," Green River Wildlife Management Coordinator Mark Zornes said. "The sampling process only takes a few minutes and can be done in the field, at a game check station, or at Game and Fish regional offices. We simply pull one or two lymph nodes out of the animals neck. We are sampling deer, elk and moose. Pronghorn antelope do not get CWD. Successful deer hunters who want to bring their deer head to a regional office should call ahead to make arrangements for sampling. Another option is to contact your local game warden or wildlife biologist." (photo left, center)*

*Chronic Wasting Disease is not known to be a disease of humans. Nonetheless, to avoid risk, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people avoid eating meat from deer and elk that look sick or that test positive for CWD. For more information contact the Green River Region Office at 307-875-3223. For more information about CWD in Wyoming, visit the WGFD website at: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Wildlife-in-Wyoming/More-Wildlife/Wildlife-Disease/Chronic-Wasting-Disease> For more information about CWD in North America, visit the CWD Alliance website at: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>.*

*The Woodward family from Utah harvest three deer from the Bear River Divide Hunter Management Area (photo below left) Happy California deer hunters from deer hunt area 135 (photo below right)*





~ Happy elk hunters~ Trumpeter swans~ Beautiful fall scenery by game warden Andy Roosa~



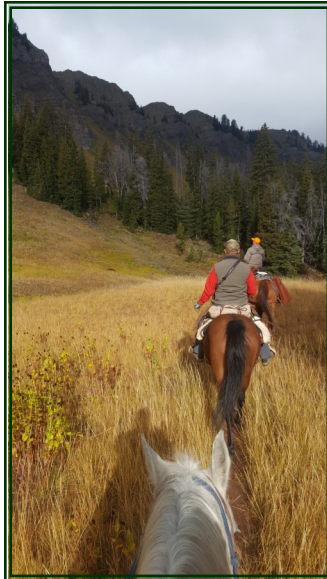
Green River Game Warden Andy Roosa checked several happy elk hunters in his district this September. (photos, left, top three) Roosa was also busy with his camera and provides readers with some wonderful scenery/wildlife photos from along the Green River (bottom left and right) and from the Little Mountain area (photo directly below)



"Trumpeter swans produced two cygnets somewhere along the river in the town of Green River this past summer," said **Susan Patla, Jackson Nongame Biologist**. "I was contacted by Green River resident Dave Mead, an avid bird watcher who lives by the Killdeer Wetlands, and he saw a pair this summer, but not the pair with two young. I found the birds on my Sept. 16 flight near the kayak park. This is really big news, as this is the most southern nesting pair in the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swans-and folks have been talking about getting birds to nest farther south since the 1980s."



~Patrolling the High Country~ Happy pronghorn antelope and mule deer hunters ~



Mykenna Coursey with a nice buck deer from Hunt Area 135. Photo: WGFD Kemmerer Game Warden Chris Baird



Game wardens Chris Baird and Andy Roosa, along with Mountain View Wildlife Biologist Jeff Short, patrolled the backcountry on horseback on the September 15th opener for mule deer in the Wyoming Range along the La Barge Creek hunt area boundary. (photos, left top two and immediately below) "Hunting pressure was relatively low for opening day," Baird said. "However, we did check some nice deer that were harvested. I also checked the best antelope I have checked in a long time harvested by Dan Watts of Green River in Hunt Area 95. It was sure a dandy. Watts said he scored it at just over 80. He hauled it up to camp in LaBarge Creek to show his son." (photo left, third from the top) Baird also checked a 12 year old boys first buck deer he and his dad found a long way from a road near sheep pass (photo bottom, right) and a 31" near mule deer buck near Sheep Pass. (photo bottom, left)







~Successful antelope and elk hunters ~ Crazy moose~ Fall colors and wild turkeys~



Mountain View Game Warden Allen Deru was happy to report that, overall, the amount of law enforcement action needed was down compared to last September. "I had a lot fewer calls and I didn't run into too much out patrolling," Deru said. "Hunters in the area seemed to be very satisfied with the number of animals they were seeing and they harvested some nice ones. (photo top, left)

"I checked an angler who caught tiger trout in Meeks Cabin Reservoir," Deru said. "Apparently, the fish came down the Blacks Fork River out of Utah. Tiger trout in Meeks Cabin originally came from high lake stocking in the Blacks Fork drainage by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources."

"I did encounter a bull moose who seemed to have some issues with a tent," Deru said. The little bull moose was on the Whiskey Springs Road and he didn't seem to like the tent being there. (photo immediately below) We did get some winter weather for a weekend and it made the hunting nicer with the cooler temperatures. It also made for a nice day for me and my dog with the snow and the fall leaves. (photo, bottom, right) I also ran into some wild turkeys in the Henry's Fork Drainage. It is always nice to see them wandering around near Burntfork." (photo bottom, left)



Game Warden Deru's dog Clyde enjoying the new snow.





## Hunter Management Areas

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Southwest Access Yes Coordinator Andy Countryman was happy to report that his first three pronghorn antelope harvest checks in hunt area 93 were all "firsts" for the hunters (Photos left) , including a extremely happy young man on a Walk-In area (photo left, top). "I checked a deer hunter's best deer taken in his lifetime in Green River Wildlife Supervisor Todd Graham's old stomping grounds in Star Valley," Countryman said. The deer antlers measured over 31" wide." *(photo below)*





~Project WILD and Project Learning Tree workshop for educators~ Hunter education~



Early childhood educators from the Bridger Valley and Evanston, Wyo took part in a **Project WILD and Project Learning Tree workshop** to obtain the environmental education manuals and also receive credits toward Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) and State Training and Registration System (STARS). They also managed to have a whole lot of fun! **I&E Specialist Lucy Wold** runs them through the activity Oh Deer in a sweater only fitting for this sort of workshop! :) (Photo top, left and center) Students from **Lincoln Middle School** came to the regional office to participate in firearms safety. (photo below) **Green River Game Warden Andy Roosa, GR Habitat Biologist Kevin Spence, GR Office Manager Regina Dickson, Green River Game Warden Justin Dodd and I&E Specialist Lucy Wold** helped the students from **Mr. Robb's** class learn firearms safety.



**GR Habitat Biologist Kevin Spence** (photo left) helps a student understand the action of a firearm. **Office manager Regina Dickson** helps students learn how to safely get a firearm in and out of a vehicle. (photo left, bottom) **Lincoln Middle School teacher and Wyoming Hunter Education Instructor Malcolm Robb** helps students understand how to properly load their firearms and match the proper caliber. (photo right)







GR Office Managers Sheila Deinhardt (right) and Regina Dickson (left) have been busy directing phone calls from hunters. They are sporting some of the merchandise they sell at the front counter. Come on by and see what "wild" things you may buy for the avid hunter or angler in your family.

<http://wgfd.wyo.gov>  
Office Phone: 307-875-3223  
Office Fax: 307-875-3242  
Toll Free In-State 1-800-843-8096

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~Critter Spotlight~  
Pine Marten  
By Mark Zornes a.k.a. Leopold

- ◆ *One of several members of the weasel family* that inhabits Wyoming, the *pine marten* is a medium sized "mustelid" (weasel) about the size of its cousin, the mink. Unlike mink, pine martens inhabit forested mountain habitats, typically dominated by dense conifer trees, downfall, and deep snows.
- ◆ *Pine martens*, like many members of the weasel family, display a reproductive system called "*delayed implantation*." Breeding occurs during late summer, embryos are not implanted until late winter, and young are born in late March or early April. Females typically give birth to 2-5 young.
- ◆ *Pine martens are largely carnivorous*, feeding primarily on various species of small mammals, especially voles. Pine martens also consume numerous red squirrels (which they can run down and capture in trees) and snowshoe hares. In summer, martens are known to consume large amounts of fruits, and *are considered to be major seed dispersers* (they do not digest the seed and seeds are dropped with feces).
- ◆ *In Wyoming*, pine martens are an *important furbearer*. The species can be found in most mountainous habitats across the state, with numbers likely highest in western and northwestern Wyoming.